

PETER HEATON-JONES MP
ANNUAL REPORT TO KNOWSTONE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an annual report for Knowstone Parish Council. I live in the neighbouring parish and so take a very close interest in local issues.

It was an honour to be asked to open the Knowstone Village Fair & Show last summer – thank you for the invitation and for the warm welcome!

Can I offer my congratulations to members of the Parish Council returned or co-opted following the recent elections. I look forward to continuing to work with the Council.

May's elections also saw a new administration at North Devon District Council. I will of course continue to work closely with the Council as a whole, and specifically our area's District and County Councillors, to get the best for our community.

National politics are dominated by Brexit. My stance has been to vote at every opportunity to move Brexit forward, to end the uncertainty and to deliver on the result of the referendum. I will continue to do so.

North Devon Link Road

Work on the major improvements to the Link Road will start next year. This follows our victory in securing £83million in government funding for the scheme, together with £10million from the County Council. Preparatory work will start even sooner; later this year. This is a significant investment in North Devon which I will continue to champion.

RMB Chivenor

Although situated some distance from Knowstone, the Royal Marines Base at Chivenor has an economic impact on the whole of North Devon. That's why, along with many others, I fought so hard to reverse the MoD's decision to close the base. I was delighted that we were listened to, and that the then Defence Secretary came to Chivenor in person to announce the reversal in February. I will continue to lobby hard on North Devon's behalf when we're faced with such challenges.

Rural Affairs

I take a close interest in matters affecting rural areas like Knowstone.

Good broadband and mobile phone coverage are incredibly important. I am in almost weekly contact with Connecting Devon & Somerset, Airband and BT to ensure that as many properties as possible have access to superfast broadband connections.

For the farming community, I have had numerous meetings with the NFU and individual farmers, and last summer brought the Environment Secretary Michael Gove here to visit a number of local farms. I continue to push for improvements to the government's farming and environment strategies, and of course for the security of farm subsidies after Brexit.

Keeping in touch

I produce a newsletter every fortnight, and you can subscribe via my website:
www.peterheatonjones.org.uk

I hold regular surgeries; the nearest to Knowstone are in South Molton every 8 weeks or so. Surgeries are by appointment only, but the vast majority of cases can be handled without having to wait for a face-to-face meeting. Please contact my office and I will be delighted to assist.
Email: peter.heatonjones.mp@parliament.uk, or call 01271 327990.

Peter Heaton-Jones
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